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§ 117 *Aspidium Thelypteris*, Swz.—I have several times found specimens of this fine fern—usually described as pinnate and, by some authors, as bipinnatifid only—that were distinctly bipinnate with pinnatifid divisions, and now Mrs. Rust sends to me, from Syracuse, N. Y., some remarkable specimens that not only are bipinnate, but have the pinnules cut so near to the rachis as to make the fronds appear tripinnate with the divisions again pinnatifid.

The specimens were found growing in the shade of deep woods—probably in a place that remains submerged with water through the winter and early spring months,—and, as usual with this fern when growing in such situations, were wholly barren. The species would not have been readily recognized from these specimens but for the character of the root, and the presence of one or two small fronds. The largest specimen—which measures 20 inches across the lower triangular-shaped divisions—is ternate, and resembles *Pteris aquilina* in its broadly triangular outline, rigid stipe and stalks; but the root, texture and venation are clearly that of *A. Thelypteris*.

I am inclined to regard these specimens as an unhealthy condition of the plants rather than as a variety, and take it the explanation of the phenomena is to be found either in the exhaustion of the vital energies of the plants through a lack of some necessary element of food in the soil, or in a change of conditions by which they are surrounded. The roots were particularly weak—not having strength enough to support the fronds in an erect position—and indicate the gradual extinction of the species in a locality where at some time it may have been abundant and vigorous. Possibly, if transplanted to some new locality, they might recover their normal condition; otherwise they will be likely to die out altogether. To test this I have planted two roots, and, if they survive, may be able another season to report results.

GEO. E. DAVENPORT.

Boston, September 15, 1876.

§ 118. Notes.—Having several pots of garden *Petunia* in my windows, I noticed that many small flies were caught in the glandular hairs of the leaves and stems. I watched the fate of the insects as well as I was able. I never found that any escaped. If they struggled much, the viscid matter of the glands was drawn about and over them, like a web or a tangle of fine roots. Then, after some weeks, the legs and wings gradually disappeared, and finally the trunk, leaving the heads for a long time, nor can I say what finally became of these. The hairs of the plant before contact with the insect were of pellucid green, but, in all cases, became discolored for a little distance around the insect, turning brown but not withering. The insects were from one to two-twelfths of an inch in length. Once a much larger fly was caught and struggled in vain for half a day finally dying. But I lost sight of him. I am not able to form an opinion as to whether the insects were absorbed by the glands, but of the facts reported I am quite sure.

Is it unusual for the *Ericaceæ* to be spontaneously propagated by seed at the present time? I have lived many years in near